



Water Conservation in Wisconsin

DNR Program & Rule Development





Act 227 Direction

- Act 227 directs the development of a statewide water conservation & efficiency program.
- Must specify water conservation & efficiency goals and objectives for the state.
- Must implement a program by 12/8/2010 ... within 2 years of the Compact's effective date.



- Wisconsin's goals and objectives were developed by the DNR, DCOMM and the PSC.
- They reflect the comments received from an advisory committee of Wisconsin stakeholders and Tribes.
- Take into consideration the comments received during a public comment period held from July 15, 2008 to August 15, 2008.



Wisconsin's Goals

- Ensuring improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources.
- Protecting and restoring the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin.
- Retaining the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin.
- Ensuring sustainable use of waters of the Basin.
- Promoting the efficiency of use and reducing losses and waste of water



Wisconsin's Objectives

- Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state and provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.
- Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.
- Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.
- Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.
- Develop science, technology and research.



Must promote “***environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures***”

- Represent best practices applicable to the water use sector
- Technically feasible and available
- Cost-effective



Measures will take into account:

- the amount and type of withdrawal, diversion, or consumptive use
- Whether the withdrawal or diversion existed on 12/8/2008 – the effective date of the Compact.
- measures required or authorized by PSC and DCOMM



- Water Conservation & Efficiency requirements referenced in:
 - General & Individual Water Use Permits
 - Diversion Approvals
 - Water Supply Service Area Planning
- Conservation requirements likely to be expressed as best management practices.



Wisconsin's Program

- Assumptions:
 - Increasing levels of rigor corresponding to different types of users:
 - basic conservation for all new withdrawals for in-basin uses;
 - more conservation for any diversions;
 - and most conservation for large water losses or consumptive uses.